

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 AID-05 HEW-02 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 /082 W

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P R 141045Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3811

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3341

MANILA FOR AMBASSADOR FROM CHAPMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, RP, LA

SUBJECT: OPERATION BROTHERHOOD

REF: MANILA 6486 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH ALIVE TO THE PROBLEMS CONFRONT-  
ING OBI OPERATIONS IN LAOS, THE DIFFICULTIES OF PLANNING  
ITS FUTURE AND THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE PGNU'S ATTITUDE  
TOWARDS ITS CONTINUANCE. ACTING USAID DIRECTOR RAMSEY  
AND CHIEF OF USAID'S PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, DR. KENNEDY,  
HAVE BEEN CHASING MINISTER OF HEALTH KHAMPHAI ABHAY  
AND SECSTATE FOR HEALTH DR. KHAMLIENG PHOLSENA ON THE  
SUBJECT FOR SOME TIME. FORTUITOUSLY FOR HIM, KHAMPHAI  
HAD TO LEAVE ON MAY 8 FOR A WHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN  
GENEVA. DR. KHAMLIENG, IN A MEETING WITH DR. KENNEDY  
ON MAY 12, EQUIVOCATED. TODAY, BEFORE RECEIVING  
REFTEL, THIS WAS ONE OF QUESTIONS I RAISED WITH  
FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT.

2. I CITED OB AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF  
THE PRESENT SITUATION. THE FACT WAS THAT THE FILIPINOS  
WERE UNDERSTANDABLY VERY CONCERNED FOR THEIR SECURITY  
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AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE THEM ANY MEANINGFUL

ASSURANCES UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT TOOK A CLEAR DECISION THAT IT WANTED THE MAINTENANCE OF THESE HOSPITALS AND WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SECURITY. I SAID THERE WERE SIX OB HOSPITALS IN LAOS. THE OPERATIONS HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR TWENTY YEARS. THEY HAD, I BELIEVED, PROVIDED IMPORTANT HUMANITARIAN SERVICES TO THE LAO PEOPLE AND VERY PERSONALLY I DEPLORED THE PROSPECTS OF CLOSING ONE OR ALL DOWN. PHOUMI ANSWERED THAT THE PGNU APPRECIATED THE SERVICES AND WELCOMED THE MAINTENANCE OF THESE HOSPITALS. HOWEVER, HE RECALLED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME FRICTION BETWEEN FILIPINOS AND LAO EMPLOYEES. HE SAID THAT FILIPINOS WHO WORKED IN THESE HOSPITALS SHOULD BE TOLD TO RESPECT AND TREAT THE LAO WELL. I ANSWERED I COULD NOT AGREE WITH HIM MORE, BUT THAT AS FAR AS I COULD DETERMINE, THERE WERE ONLY ISOLATED CASES OF PERSONAL FRICTION. I CLOSED THIS TOPIC BY SAYING THAT GIVEN ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE PAST TWO TO THREE WEEKS, IT WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH FOR HIM TO SIMPLY TELL ME THAT HE WANTED THE MAINTENANCE OF THESE HOSPITALS BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTIONS TO REASSURE THE FILIPINOS AND MAKE POSSIBLE THE OPERATIONS OF THESE HOSPITALS.

CHAPMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 84  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MANILA 6486  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OPERATION BROTHERHOOD  
**TAGS:** AEMR, RP, LA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006